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Iraq

Tanks and armored vehicles took up positions on the streets of Baghdad and the roads leading to it, Tehran radio claimed. Saddam received Yasir 'Arafat, INA reported. Baghdad radio reported on talks in Vienna aimed at [illegible]sing the UN embargo against oil exports.

Sudan

President al-Bashir, interviewed by the London paper AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, said "We will not give the Iranians any bases, and they have not asked for any, nor have the Iranians offered to send Iranian forces to our country." "Sudanese sources," however, averred that 3,000 Iranian soldiers arrived in Khartoum following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit, the Cairo paper AL-WAFD stated. Meanwhile, al-Bashir termed the United Arab Emirates' expulsion of Khartoum's ambassador and six staffers as "unjustified," SUNA reported. In the south of the country, "fierce fighting" broke out between rival factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, the agency continued.

Peace Talks Delegations

The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to talks with Israel departed for Washington, PETRA-JNA reported. Palestinian negotiators spoke to Amman television about prospects for the talks; another one told the JORDAN TIMES that U.S. support and interest in the peace process contributed to the Palestinian decision to return to Washington. The Israeli delegation's arrival statement in Washington was reported by Tel Aviv radio.

Algeria

The Islamic Salvation Front leader said troops have been deployed throughout the country overnight, Paris radio disclosed. The prime minister, however, earlier denied that the Army is eyeing a role following national elections, Paris international radio reported.

Libya

An aviation official told an international aviation body that the U.S. 6th Fleet has violated Libya's airspace, JANA disclosed. The official called on the aviation authority to intercede with the United States, the agency continued.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Arab Maghreb Union Consultative Council, meeting in Tripoli, called for negotiations to be undertaken in disputes between states and expressed its "complete solidarity" with Libya, JANA reported. The council rejected any attempts to exert political, economic, or military pressure against Libya, and also called for an end to the embargo against Iraq, the agency continued.

Israel

Details of a draft statement on the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the PRC were published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT, which added that the statement would be released during Foreign Minister Levi's upcoming visit to Beijing.

Lebanon

Despite the efforts of UN envoy Giandomenico Picco, "pro-Iranian" sources ruled out the possibility of releasing the two German hostages still being held, Beirut radio stated.

Iran

The head of the International Civil Aviation Organization told a news conference that Tehran is ready to return to Kuwait six aircraft flown to Iran by Iraqi pilots last year, IRNA noted.

Pakistan

A government spokesman confirmed that recent contacts were held with the son-in-law of former Afghan King Zaher Shah as part of efforts to resolve the Afghanistan conflict, according to Islamabad radio, which cited the spokesman's reiteration that Pakistan supports a settlement within the framework of the five-point proposal of the UN secretary general.

Bangladesh

During talks in Bangladesh, Burma agreed to hold regular meetings to reduce tensions following a border clash, Dhaka radio reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Team Arrives in U.S.; Delegates Comment

TA0601170692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The Israeli delegation to the peace talks arrived in Washington today. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein said that honoring timetables is an important part of honoring agreements, and that Israel expects the Arabs to show up on time. Our correspondent Qeren Neubach reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Neubach] We have come to Washington with the wish to pursue the negotiations and make progress, said Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

[Rubinstein] In order to attain a big agreement it is necessary to honor a small agreement. The small agreement in this case is to show up on the date we agreed upon. [passage omitted]

[Neubach] Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the delegation to the talks with the Syrians and director general of the Prime Minister's Office, stated that at the end of this round of talks Israel would demand that the talks move to the Middle East.

[Ben-Aharon] We did not come here to stay indefinitely. The activities will move from here to Moscow, if and when the multinational conference scheduled for 28 January is held. We will then decide on the date of the next round of talks, which we want to conduct—and will insist is conducted—in our region.

[Neubach] Referring to the multilateral talks in Moscow, Yosef Hadas, head of the delegation to the talks with the Lebanese, said that he would discuss the issue with U.S. Administration officials this week in Washington. He said he hoped all the Arab countries that had promised to attend would definitely show up. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Union Council Concludes Work

Solidarity With Libya Against West

LD0701170392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1456 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Jan (JANA)—At the conclusion of its third session, held between 5 and 7 January in Tripoli, Jamahiriyah, the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Consultative Council addressed a message to each of the following: the UN secretary general, the UN General Assembly president, the UN Security Council chairman, the OAU chairman, the Islamic Conference Organization chairman, the Arab League secretary general, and the EC president. Here is the text of the message:

The AMU's Consultative Council—which expresses the will of the Arab Maghreb people—convened its third session between 5 and 7 January 1992. While affirming all the tenets of good [word indistinct], democracy, and human rights; while calling for security and peace in the world so that amity and harmony would prevail over the entire human race; while denouncing violence, terrorism, and wars of all kinds and forms; while recording with satisfaction the people of the world's firm desire to make progress, combat poverty, hunger, and disease, and to continue to work for the realization of the noble principles contained in the UN Charter and all international charters which have been accepted by the human race as their plan of action and as a method of conducting relations among them; the AMU's Consultative Council, from the outset, has been following with great uneasiness and extreme concern the Western accusations and threats against Libya, a sovereign Arab country.

Out of its awareness of the ramifications of these threats and the extent to which they might go in a way that does not conform to the simplest precepts of international law and legitimacy in dealing with an issue that is within the scope of law, which must remain the arbiter in all the problems that affect international relations; and while it records with great satisfaction the announcement made by Libya regarding its condemnation of terrorism of all kinds and forms, its denunciation of all those who resort to or encourage it, its reaffirmation of that stand at all Arab and international gatherings—and expressing its total readiness to cooperate with any international or regional judicial or humanitarian body to work for its destruction; and its appreciation of the legal measures adopted by the Jamahiriyah ... and while the Council declares its support for that stand of the Great Jamahiriyah and its full readiness to cooperate with U.S. and British judicial bodies in particular, and its firm eagerness to bring to light the whole truth about that issue; and while the AMU's Consultative Council stresses its extreme concern, and its rejection of the escalation witnessed in this issue and hints at the use of force in dealings among countries in a way that violates the UN Charter and international law, it calls for adherence to international charters, for the method of dialogue and negotiation to be followed in resolving disputes among states, and it expresses its complete solidarity with sisterly Libya, and rejects any attempts to exert political, economic, or military pressure against it.

Therefore, the Consultative Council urges you—while you shoulder the responsibility of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of states, and noninterference in their internal affairs—to intervene as soon as possible to stop the threats made against the Great Jamahiriyah, and to stop any attempt to violate the sovereignty of a state which is a member of the international community, to threaten it, or carry out aggression against it.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

More on Work of Conference

LD0701201292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 7 Jan (JANA)—[Passage omitted] The AMU Consultative Council in its statement called on Arab public opinion and all the Arab and international organizations to stand firmly in the face of the attempts aimed at harming peace and stability in the world.

The AMU Consultative Council hailed in its final statement the Great Jamahiriyah's wise and objective stand with which it dealt with the issue of the American and British allegations.

The council appealed to the Arab countries and the free people in the world to work for lifting the embargo on the Iraqi people whose children and old people are experiencing an unparalleled real human tragedy.

The Council reiterated in its statement its absolute support for the Palestinian people and the intifadah led by the generation of anger against the savage Zionist people until the recovery of its full rights to self-determination and the establishment of its independent state over all Palestinian soil.

The Council condemned the Zionist racist gangs' persistence in building settlements on the Palestinian land and the deportation of the Palestinian people from its land. It stressed the need to put an end to these practices which are in breach of international laws and conventions.

The AMU Consultative Council stressed in its final statement the importance of transforming the council from a consultative one to a parliament with full prerogatives in the Arab Maghreb.

The Council called for the speeding up of the creation of an AMU academy of sciences, the implementation of primary education, and the unification of curriculum, textbooks, and school vacations. The statement also pointed out the need to teach the Arabic language and civilization to the sons of Arab emigrants to Europe.

The statement also called for the acceleration of the creation of an AMU employment center to meet the need for experts and competent people, and the speeding up of the forming of the AMU committee for school medicine and setting aside a plan for fighting malnutrition and diarrhea.

The Council called for the need to unify efforts to recover the usurped AMU heritage which can be found particularly in the former colonizing countries, to create a scientific AMU library at the university level, to expand the Tunis-based AMU television channel so that it covers the AMU [word indistinct], and to create an institution for the distribution of newspapers at the AMU level. The statement also called for the need to create an AMU agency for youth tourism and setting aside a program for fighting epidemics.

The Council also called for accelerating the preparation of the AMU charter regarding the protection and development of the environment, and called for the need to complement the measures related to maritime transportation and goods crossing the AMU countries, and cooperation followed by implementation in the field of AMU maritime trade.

The Council called for efforts to overcome difficulties in putting the interest of the AMU above all considerations, bearing in mind that every sacrifice in this field will have a positive reflection in the medium and long term, and the need to coordinate policies related to foreign trade, customs, and guaranteeing food security in the AMU.

GCC Country Uncovers Underground Organization

NC0801125592 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 7 Jan 92 pp 1, 13

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mawla from Abu Dhabi]

[Text] A Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member state has uncovered an underground organization formed by Iraqis, Palestinians, and Sudanese living on its territories. The security agencies have arrested members, interrogated them, recorded their confessions, and ordered them out of the country. The agencies passed the information to the other GCC member states, according to security cooperation and coordination agreements signed by GCC members.

The organization's financing comes from Khartoum and it receives its orders from a mysterious command in the Sudanese capital. This prompted interrogators to ask about the nature of the relationship between the organization and the Islamic Front in Sudan, which is led by Hasan al-Turabi and is running the country behind 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's military regime. Is there a strategic alliance between pro-Iraqi partisan organizations and al-Bashir's regime? If so, when did it start, on what basis, and what are its goals? What is it that united fundamentalist movements and secular organizations that have been fighting for more than 50 years?

Investigations unearthed more than the organization's finance and the Khartoum command. The groups got together in the first weeks of the Gulf crisis; the alliance materialized at the peak of the crisis, lasting through Kuwait's liberation from the Iraqi troops, and has continued until today. This proves that one of the underground organization's goals is to link the Gulf's fundamentalist current to the leadership of the Islamic Front in Sudan. This is not surprising, as one of the partisan leaders admitted. Saddam Husayn, they say, raised the banner of religion to justify occupying Kuwait.

According to responsible sources, the organization could not keep going because security forces in the Gulf state in which it was active put it under close watch and because a regional power intervened, trying to control the fundamentalist current throughout the Middle East. This power set about

establishing links with the politico-Islamic current in Khartoum and with al-Bashir's regime.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Negotiator on U.S. Role in Talks

JN0901075392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 92 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam Shahin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, a senior Palestinian delegation member, told the Jordan Times that renewed American support and active interest in the Middle East peace talks has contributed to the Palestinian decision to continue the drive for peace.

Dr. al-Khatib said that a number of factors on the international political arena as well as in developments in the internal Israeli political system have encouraged Palestinians to believe that matters could move to the advantage of Arabs.

He said that Israel's tactic of "continuous offensive" has backfired when the world strongly condemned its decision to continue its policy of expulsion.

He said that while the Israeli expulsion decision had adversely affected Palestinian popular opinion and is effectively an "inhumane strike," it also added to Israel's isolation internationally and increased U.S. frustration with its long-term ally.

"These two developments will be a helping factor in resolving the issue of separation between the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks in the bilateral negotiations," Dr. al-Khatib said.

He added that the U.S. administration had used the time between the first round of talks in Washington and the second one expected to begin next week "to conduct effective and active contacts" with the parties to the Middle East talks.

"The U.S. did not waste time," Dr. al-Khatib said. "They have tried to bring the Arab and Israeli positions closer on the issue of tracks," he added.

"The U.S. has tried and continues to try to be marginally positive with us," Dr. al-Khatib said.

"This package of developments, we believe, will increase the chances of resolving the procedural problems," he said.

On another level, Dr. al-Khatib said, the internal Israeli situation also indicates a number of important factors which weighed against each other could also signal a positive trend towards the Palestinian cause.

He explained that two right-wing ministers in the Israeli cabinet have already announced their intention to resign if the Israeli delegation to the Middle East peace talks discusses issues of substance, including interim self-government arrangements.

He said that although this situation could signal a problem for the Palestinian negotiating position, the advent of the deadline for a $10 billion loan guarantees bill for Israel could encourage the U.S. to use its leverage on Israel and increase the pressure for halting settlements in the occupied territories.

Dr. al-Khatib said that increased pressure would place Israel in a dilemma, especially that in its 1992 fiscal budget it had already assumed that it would receive loans of $2 billion.

"If it does not get the $2 billion then this would lead to confusion in the budget," he said.

In the final analysis, Dr. al-Khatib said, Israel may, in the medium term find itself facing one of two choices: Either it would halt settlements or the government would collapse.

Although these two assumptions are based on predictions that the U.S. would increase pressure on Israel, Dr. al-Khatib said, "Either conclusion would not be negative from a Palestinian perspective and therefore we think that continuing negotiations is a feasible option at this time." [passage omitted]

Algeria

Prime Minister: Army Not Involved in Politics

LD0701102992 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Ghozali was eager to play down the results of the Algerian elections on the "Press Club" program on Europe No. 1. The situation is not simple, but it is not tragic, he said of what for him has up to now been a vote of exasperation and despair.

[Begin Ghozali recording] In the first round of voting we saw that the party that was victorious in the first round nevertheless lost 1.2 million votes in comparison with the communal elections of 1990, of June 1990—that is to say, one-third of the persons who voted for it.

Second, there are two things one can say without fear of contradiction. The first is that the huge majority of Algerians have voted for rejection, if you like, including those who didn't vote, and there were unfortunately far too many of them—a rejection of all those [words indistinct] who helped, in one way or another, to make Algeria what it is today.

The second thing is that if the Algerians have clearly registered a vote of rejection or of exasperation, which also means a vote of despair, and so on, the huge majority of Algerians were not able to express what they wanted. They have said what they didn't want; they haven't said what they did want. [end recording]

The Algerian prime minister also raised the fears of some people about intervention by the Algerian Army if it does not like the regime that is in the process of emerging from the ballot box. Here too, Mr. Ghozali thinks that this is an exaggeration.

[Begin Ghozali recording] We don't have an army of putschists. One of the main proofs of this is that the Army had to intervene to implement the state of emergency last June at the command of the president. If we had an army that was still involved in politics or that meant to take power, there was no better occasion than last June to do it. It did what it had to do honorably, and it considerably enhanced its image in the eyes of Algerian public opinion, in the eyes of the Algerian public. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Says Government To Resign After Elections

LD0801230592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpt] A seminar on vocational training ended this evening. The prime minister, who attended the seminar, announced that his government will resign after the general elections. Djaouida Azzoug reports:

[Azzoug] Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who attended this evening's seminar on vocational training, has officially announced that his government will resign after the general elections. Talking about the political situation in the country, Sid Ahmed Ghozali said, I quote: The democratic process is a long path full of obstacles. He also said that to believe in this democracy is first to refuse to run away from and deny certain realities. Democracy, he said, is first the language of truth in the political realm.

The prime minister also said that our people have suffered more severe problems than in the past. They are reasonable people, ambitious and peace-loving, and they have already given proof of their capabilities. History is their witness. The people today can rise to meet any challenge. [passage omitted]

FIS Says Troops Deployed Throughout Country

LD0801162492 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] A large number of troops have been stationed throughout Algeria in the last 24 hours. This was declared by the leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], which finished the first round of the legislative elections well in the lead.

During a news conference in Algiers, he said that the FIS has received reports from all regions indicating that since last night, the Army and police have been deployed in large numbers.

Hachani 'Amazed' by State's Reaction

LD0801220992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front provisional executive bureau, held a news conference at 1400. We have the details from Rania Cherif:

[Cherif] Mr. Hachani said that the FIS information network has also noted cases of fraud, notably at Sidi Khaled in Biskra governorate. He also pointed out that the results won by his own party are almost the same as those announced by the Constitutional Council.

Hachani said he is amazed by the government's reaction to the election results. He said: We expected a reaction of satisfaction, but we noticed after the legislative elections, we were surprised by the statement by Mr. Ghozali on the French television station Antenne-2, and I quote Mr Ghozali: The democrats have been mistaken in their enemy. This confirms the government's lack of neutrality, according to Mr. Hachani.

He also said that he denounces the campaign orchestrated to put pressure on the Constitutional Council to encourage it to follow a specific trend, but Mr. Hachani added that he is convinced that the final decision of the Constitutional Council will result in two points: either an increase in the number of seats won by the FIS or, in the

second case, an increase in the number of seats in which the FIS is a participant in the second round.

With regard to the attitude of his party, Mr. Hachani said that the FIS works within the framework of the law and that it will not give up the Islamic program whatever the circumstances. He said: We will not opt for stability unless it enshrines the choice of the people.

In conclusion, Mr. Hachani called on the Constitutional Council to shoulder its responsibility before God, the people, and history, and to play its part, which is preserving the law and the choice of the people. He also called on the president of the Republic, reminding him of his undertaking on the eve of the legislative elections to preserve the choice of the people and emphasizing the need for him to be faithful to his duty.

Holds News Conference on Election Results

LD0801224892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the provisional executive bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front, this afternoon held a news conference at the wilaya people's council premises. Here is a report by our colleague Souad Serhan:

[Serhan] As for the reason for holding this news conference, Abdelkader Hachani said that following the outcome of the elections which made Algerian society ask a number of questions, the FIS, through its provisional bureau, decided to hold the news conference to explain a number of issues to the national and international public. The first issue concerns the results of the elections. Mr. Hachani said that the FIS was able to obtain 47 percent of the vote, against 25.8 percent gained by the National Liberation Front [FLN], and that all the Islamic parties put together—the FIS, Hamas, and the al-Nahdah Islamic movement—were able to win 54 percent of the vote, a matter which indicates that the Algerian people chose the Islamic (?plan). Abdelkader Hachani pointed out that the results, which the FIS knew about through its special network, are about equal to those declared by the Constitutional Council.

He then dealt with the attitude of the government vis-a-vis the results of the election, which was confined to the fact that the government was able to carry out the task it was charged with: holding legislative elections. However, the government stated a week after the declaration of the election results that the latter were not honest. Here Hachani remarked that the media, which closely covered the elections, were unanimous in saying that the elections were held in a calm and honest atmosphere. [passage omitted]

8 Parties Contest 199 Constituencies in 2d Round

LD0801160192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The second round of the elections is on 16 January. There are no fewer than 5,403,259 voters expected at the various polling stations in the 199 constituencies which have not yet elected their representatives. Eight parties will be fighting it out on January 16th: the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], Socialist Forces Front [FFS], National Liberation Front [FLN], Islamic Society Movement [Hamas], Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], Party of Algerian Renewal [PRA], Al-Nahdah, Social Democratic Party [PSD], and the independents. Forty-seven out of the 48 wilayas are involved; only Illizi elected all its deputies on 26 December. On the other hand, Skikda is the province with the most constituencies to be fought, followed closely by Tebessa and Bechar.

The FIS is contesting 187 constituencies and is represented in 46 provinces; the FLN is also represented in 46 provinces and is fighting 172 constituencies. As for the FFS, it is represented in seven provinces with 17 constituencies. Independent candidates are fighting six constituencies; the RCD and Hamas in five; Al-Nahdah in two; and the PSD and PRA in one constituency each. Let us recall that 231 seats were filled in the first round.

As for citizens who did not register on the electoral rolls, they cannot do so between the two rounds. As for those who have a [election] card but couldn't find their names on the electoral rolls on 26 December, they will be put on new rolls.

Libya

Government Charges 6th Fleet Violates Airspace

LD0901115292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Jan (JANA)—The secretary of the Administration Committee of the General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority of the Great Jamahiriyah informed the chairman of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Canada and its director general of the Jamahiriyah's protest against the violation by the U.S. 6th Fleet of the Tripoli aviation information zone, which constitutes a great danger to the security and safety of international civil aviation.

The secretary of the administration committee of civil aviation affirmed in his letter to the chairman of the ICAO Council in Canada that the fact that the U.S. 6th Fleet is carrying out operations in the Tripoli civil aviation information zone is considered a blatant violation of the Civil Aviation Convention signed in Chicago in 1944. He pointed out that this creates a situation that can impede international air navigation.

The secretary of the Administration Committee of the General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority of the Great Jamahiriyah called on the chairman of the ICAO Council to intercede immediately with the U.S. Administration so that it refrains from such actions which threaten the freedom of air navigation above international waters and the normal and safe course of civil aviation operations.

He also urged the U.S. Administration to comply with its international commitments as a member of the International Civil Aviation Convention.

The secretary of the Administration Committee of the General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority of the Great Jamahiriyah asked the chairman of the ICAO Council in Canada to circulate the protest of the Great Jamahiriyah against the U.S. actions to all members of the ICAO Council.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Discusses Iranian, Regional Relations

PM0801155492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jan 92 p 4

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] ['Atwan] Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Sudan 10 days ago triggered numerous reactions and aroused concern among Sudan's neighbors, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Is this concern justified?

[Al-Bashir] The timing of the visit was natural. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was invited to visit Sudan to return my earlier visit to Iran. The timing, after the Dakar summit, was suggested by them. The timing had nothing to do with any regional events, apart from the fact that the visit came after the Dakar summit.

The neighboring states' anxiety is unjustified because we always make it a condition that Sudan's relations with any state must have nothing to do with any third state. This has been a clear principle in our relations from the very beginning. We do not establish ties with one state at the expense of another. We have tried, and are still trying, to establish balanced relations with all the Arab states in the region.

What I find strange is that the states which condemn and are concerned about the Iranian-Sudanese rapprochment are themselves seeking a rapprochement with Iran. Why should these states allow themselves to develop ties with Iran and then deny us the same right?

We have never asked any Arab state to restrict its relations with any state that we may have problems with. It is a matter of sovereignty and independent decision-making. Furthermore, we have enough problems and concerns and we do not need the anxiety of creating problems for others.

['Atwan] The causes of the anxiety were the reports that the visit resulted in Iranian-Sudanese military cooperation protocols.

[Al-Bashir] The military cooperation between Sudan and Iran is not directed against any other state. The normal cooperation existing between Sudan and Iran is the same as cooperation between Sudan and any other state. Just as there was cooperation between Sudan and Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Egypt, and Sudan and Libya, there is now cooperation between Sudan and Iran. There is no agreement to exchange expertise, training, or anything of that kind directed against any other state. We do not have the armies to mobilize on the borders of neighboring states in preparation for combat. Why do these states fear any Iranian-Sudanese military cooperation?

['Atwan] Is it true that Iran has promised to send heavy arms to Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] We have not asked for heavy arms. Our war in the South is not a war of tanks or advanced weapons. It is guerrilla warfare, which does not require heavy weapons. The weapons used in that war are known to be light weapons.

['Atwan] Is it true that the U.S. Government has officially asked you about the nature of your developing relations with Iran?

[Al-Bashir] Nothing of the kind has happened. We leave such speculations to the other media which promote them.

['Atwan] The delegation which accompanied President Hashemi-Rafsanjani included Revolutionary Guard Commander Mohsen Reza'i, as well as the Iranian intelligence chief, thereby indicating the possibility of some kind of security cooperation and coordination between the two countries, especially in the fields of training and planning joint actions in the future.

[Al-Bashir] Training links between states are nothing new. All states exchange expertise and courses—that is, trainers and students. All that is part of ordinary cooperation.

We will not give the Iranians any bases, and they have not asked for any, nor have the Iranians offered to send Iranian forces to our country. We do not need foreign forces to fight alongside us in the South. Had we needed that, we would have sought forces from our Egyptian brothers, with whom we have a joint defense pact, or from our Libyan brothers, with whom we have integration agreements.

['Atwan] I mean, will you be sending students and soldiers to Iran for training?

[Al-Bashir] We have been sending students to Iran for training since the days of the shah. What is new in that?

['Atwan] Is it true that some groups belonging to the fundamentalist Lebanese Hizballah have arrived in Sudan and are receiving training at bases on Sudanese territory?

[Al-Bashir] That is not true. It is part of the attempts to portray Sudan as a center of terrorism. Thank God, hitherto there is no practical evidence of any Sudanese terrorist carrying out any terrorist operation for any party. All past accusations that we harbored and trained

terrorists were never proved at all, and it transpired later that they were false. The talk about Lebanese Hizballah groups moving to Sudan is tendentious and meant to confuse and to distort the facts.

['Atwan] Did the Iranians ask you to do that—to harbor Hizballah groups?

[Al-Bashir] No, they did not. We could ask Iran to send us trainers to train us in the use of new arms. These arms have not yet arrived. Let me point out that we send students on training courses to the United States, France, and Britain. So why should we not send them to Iran?

What I mean is that if we needed training expertise we would turn directly to Iran, not to Hizballah. We in Sudan do not recognize parties. Parties are totally banned in our country.

['Atwan] During my visit to Sudan I noticed that the Iraqi chief of staff was on an official visit to Khartoum. Does that visit, coming 10 days after Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit, reflect some kind of duplicity in Sudan's policies?

[Al-Bashir] That visit confirms what I said at the beginning of this interview, namely that we do not establish relations with one state at the expense of another. We have good relations with both Iraq and Iran, and we will continue to equally develop our relations with Iran and Iraq. We may be a reconciliatory factor between Iraq and Iran, but we do not side with one against the other, and we have no problems with Iraq or Iran. During Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit we urged that the blockade against fraternal Iraq be lifted.

['Atwan] Did you try to mediate and to improve relations between Iraq and Iran?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, we have made some efforts to improve relations and to ease the tension between the two countries, because we believe that disputes between Arab or Islamic states serve the enemy. We try to prevent differences between Arab as well as Islamic states. All efforts should be aimed against the main enemy. Our reconciliatory role between Iraq and Iran has so far been confined to conveying and trying to connect the views of the two sides. We hope we can succeed in doing this.

['Atwan] How would you describe your current relations with Saudi Arabia and Egypt?

[Al-Bashir] There has been no change in our relations with Saudi Arabia since the Gulf crisis, despite our attempts to improve them. As for Egypt, we feel that relations have begun to improve, albeit slowly.

The only problem we have in our Arab relations is with the Abu Dhabi emirate, because of the arrest of some Sudanese nationals in the emirate and their torture by the security forces. We have lodged an official complaint against such measures.

['Atwan] Is there any official explanation of this treatment?

[Al-Bashir] We do not believe that these arrests and tortures were justified. There are Sudanese nationals in all the Gulf states. None of these states have harmed Sudanese nationals or raised suspicions that their actions have undermined security. The Gulf crisis affected everyone. The so-called Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states adopted the same position on the crisis. So why does only the Abu Dhabi emirate torture and insult the Sudanese, only Abu Dhabi and not the other Gulf states and even the other emirates such as Dubayy and Sharjah?

['Atwan] We are approaching the first anniversary of the Gulf war. How do you view it and its consequences now?

[Al-Bashir] The result of the war is clear: It is a divided Arab homeland. The nation emerged weak from the war, weaker than it has ever been in modern history. All this is clearly reflected in the current so-called peace talks in Washington, and before that, in Madrid, where the Israeli enemy is behaving arrogantly, although it fulfilled its hope for direct negotiations with the Arabs. The picture has now changed. It is now the Israelis that avoid and refuse to sit down with the Arabs, and even when they do so, they do so on their own impossible terms. We can see that Arab concessions are continuing, and we fear that we could reach a stage of normalization between the Arab states and Israel without a withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory. All this is the definite result of what happened in the Gulf war.

['Atwan] It is noteworthy that Sudan was not invited to the negotiations, though the GCC and Arab Maghreb states were invited.

[Al-Bashir] Thank God we have not been invited. Even if we had been invited, we would not have attended because of our conviction that these negotiations will not produce any results.

['Atwan] Do you believe that Iraq was wrong in that war and that your own position on that war was wrong, as claimed by certain Western and Arab circles?

[Al-Bashir] We said from the beginning that Iraq was wrong to occupy Kuwait, but two wrongs do not make a right. What happened was a bigger mistake than Iraq's alone. We still maintain that the matter could have been resolved within an Arab framework. Had that happened, we would not have lost what we did, and we would not have found ourselves so weak. In fact, we would have become stronger than we were before the crisis.

['Atwan] How could the crisis be resolved and Arab solidarity restored?

[Al-Bashir] We do not believe that a rectification is impossible. If there were a will to reunite Arab ranks, no obstacle would stop this. The problem is that the other side is not interested in the unity of Arab ranks. We have tried, and so have Iraq, Yemen, and Jordan, but the other side does not want a reunification of Arab ranks nor a restoration of solidarity.

['Atwan] Is the unwillingness of the other states a result of internal reasons and convictions, or are there foreign directions?

[Al-Bashir] Of course; the answer is clear.

['Atwan] Libya is the target of U.S. pressures, campaigns, and threats because of the incident of the bombing of the U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. How do you view this issue?

[Al-Bashir] What is happening to Libya now is part of the scheme. We knew that once Iraq was destroyed, the destruction process would not stop and that any voice raised against the new security order would be destroyed and that any state or people trying to make themselves strong would be hit. We expected, and warned against, what has happened to Libya. All the states which have military capabilities and do not follow the West will be struck, whether they are in the Arab world or anywhere else.

['Atwan] Even Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, even Sudan. Anything is possible. Every opposing voice will be hit.

['Atwan] Are you prepared for any strike?

[Al-Bashir] That is our fate, and we are prepared to face it.

['Atwan] What would your position be if Libya were to be attacked or blockaded?

[Al-Bashir] We would support Libya. There is no question about that.

['Atwan] Some reports have spoken of differences between Sudan and Libya because of Sudan's training of Libyan fundamentalists. What is your answer to that?

[Al-Bashir] It is wishful thinking by the opposition, which wants to see differences between Sudan and Libya. That is why they spread rumors, and that is why they claim that relations between the two countries are cool.

['Atwan] We and many others noticed your absence from the Dakar Islamic summit conference. Why the absence?

[Al-Bashir] First, because of internal concerns and, second, because the general atmosphere did not encourage us to attend the summit.

['Atwan] Sudan was one of the few states which opposed the omission of the jihad call from the Dakar summit statement. How do you interpret the position of the states which requested its omission?

[Al-Bashir] The reason the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] was created was the al-Aqsa Mosque fire, which means that the purpose of the ICO and its summits was to liberate al-Aqsa Mosque. So, what role does it play now? Is there a role for it to play now? Were any resolutions adopted in support of the steadfastness of the Arabs in the occupied territories and in favor of practical action to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque? The answers are well known, of course.

['Atwan] The talk about military bases in Sudan for training Arab fundamentalists opposed to their regimes has approached a certainty. Do you really have such bases and are you training these people in acts of violence?

[Al-Bashir] This is strange. These accusations are not new. They are part of the media war against Sudan. Certain people want to isolate Sudan within the Arab, Islamic, and international contexts. The states whose oppositionists we are supposed to be training have not contacted us at all to enquire or complain about this, for the simple reason that they are convinced that these charges are untrue.

Sudan is an open country, and the training camps in it are well known. If you sat down with any Sudanese at any cafe or home, he would tell you all about the military bases, the secret airfields, and defense factories!

We are prepared to take anyone who accuses us of training fundamentalists to the bases that he says we use for that purpose to see for himself that these allegations are false.

['Atwan] Tunisia has complained because Sudan gave [Al-Nahdah movement leader] Rached Ghannouchi a diplomatic passport, which it regarded as some kind of support and backing for the opposition.

[Al-Bashir] Ghannouchi has handed in his Sudanese passport, the cause of the protest, and the problem is over.

['Atwan] Did he do that voluntarily or at your request?

[Al-Bashir] No, he surrendered the passport voluntarily. He felt that this matter might cause a deterioration in Sudanese-Tunisian relations, so he gave the passport to the Sudanese Embassy in London, where he was when the problem was raised.

['Atwan] Have relations with Tunisia improved?

[Al-Bashir] No, not yet. There has been nothing new in these relations.

['Atwan] How do you assess the results of the recent Algerian parliamentary elections, which gave the Islamic Salvation Front the majority of seats?

[Al-Bashir] That is the opinion of the Algerian people. We believe that the states which cite and preach democracy should be happiest with the results of these elections. Furthermore, the Western states want Western-style Arab democratic regimes, and that is what happened. So they should accept the results without anxiety.

The victory of the Islamicists did not surprise us. Algeria's municipal elections were a significant indication. The Algerian revolution against French imperialism was an Islamic-Arab revolution against Western imperialism. A people who offered more than a million martyrs in defense of their faith do not have to abandon their

identity and their principles. These people want to practice their faith fully, but the enemies of Islam abroad do not want the Muslims to return to their religion, because they tried to wipe out Islam in the region. The attempts made in Algeria to alienate its people, to distance them from their religion, and to destroy their identity were unparalleled anywhere else.

The victory of Islam is the natural result of any democratic elections held in any Arab or Islamic country. In Sudan the Islamic parties won over 90 percent of the constituent assembly seats after the rising. The Ummah Party raised the Islamic awakening slogan, and the Democratic Unionist Party raised the Islamic Republic slogan. The National Front had a program for the implementation of the Islamic sharia. These were the three parties which won absolute majorities in elections. Even the seats won by the Communist Party—only three—went that way as a result of internal differences between representatives of the other party candidates in certain constituencies. Communist Party leader Naqd won with 5,000 votes, but there were 30,000 voters. Had it not been for these differenaces, he would not have won. Anyway, communism has now collapsed.

['Atwan] Some people fear the emergence of an Iranian-Sudanese-Algerian bloc in the near future if an Islamic state is established in Algeria.

[Al-Bashir] We do not like blocs and we do not talk about them. We seek to develop our relations with all states.

['Atwan] It is said that the government rejected the invitation so that it would not justify al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's participation in the conference and allow him to travel.

[Al-Bashir] We were unenthusiastic about participating in the conference, so it is unreasonable for us to be enthusiastic about others' participation in it. This is because the conference will be one for the opposition and, as a government, we cannot help make a conference for the opposition a success.

['Atwan] Does that mean that the ban on al-Mahdi's travel will continue?

[Al-Bashir] I do not think so. Al-Mahdi has not expressed a desire to travel, nor have we received any official request from him in that regard. He is in touch with all the state organs.

['Atwan] Is he is in touch with you personally?

[Al-Bashir] Personal contacts only took place between us once. He is in touch with other colleagues in the Revolution Command Council. We are an open society, and socially our relations still continue, even when there is disagreement. I met with him three days ago at a ceremony of mourning held for a [Democratic] Unionist Party leader.

['Atwan] If he asks to travel, will you allow him to do so?

[Al-Bashir] That is another matter.

['Atwan] What stage has been reached in the peace initiative presented by Nigeria for mediation between you and the rebels?

[Al-Bashir] Nigeria's efforts reached a very advanced stage, and an agenda for the talks was agreed upon for the first time, but then a split occurred, and the picture within the rebel movement is now unclear. Who represents the movement now?

Our aim in the talks is to achieve a just and comprehensive peace settlement. So if we agree with one side, the other will carry arms and fight. There are conflicting reports about the split, and there are battles between the two wings. We are waiting until the situation is clear. Our position is as follows: Either two delegations come to the negotiating table with us, or the two wings come within a unified delegation. In both cases we have no objection. We have informed the brothers in Nigeria that the two sides should come to the negotiations. But under no circumstances will we negotiate with one wing in the absence of the other.

['Atwan] What is the status of your relations with the IMF?

[Al-Bashir] Relations are still in a state of flux. Although they praise the steps that we have taken to reform the economy, we find that whenever we take a step on the road to reform they submit new demands to us. We have drawn up a program for economic reform and will continue it, whether or not the IMF is persuaded of it. This is because we know the defects of our economy and the means to remedy them successfully. Our negotiations with the IMF will continue at the same time.

['Atwan] Ahmad al-Mirghani was supposed to return to Sudan last week. What happened?

[Al-Bashir] We have no charges against al-Mirghani, nor have we received any information about any action against the revolution. This is why we welcomed his return and opened the VIP suite at the airport to receive him. We brought cars from the protocol department to take him home. But some confusion occurred and led to a change. Erroneous information led to the postponement of his return, but he will arrive in Sudan soon.

3,000 Iranian Soldiers Arrive in Khartoum

NC0801215792 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Jan 92 p 9

[Text] Sudanese sources have confirmed that some 3,000 Iranian soldiers have arrived in Khartoum following Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit.

The sources noted that the front [not further identified] allocated the farm confiscated from al-Na'im al-Bakrawi in the Shambat area and a camp in the Kart area to house these soldiers. The Iranian officers live in Riyad before being sent out to the various districts.

Ambassador Returns Following Expulsion by UAE

EA0901074592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0913 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jan (SUNA)—Sudan's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman Numayri and six of the embassy's staff Tuesday evening returned here after the UAE authorities asked them to leave the country. In a press statement, Numayri said what had happened was a reduction of the size of he diplomatic representation between the Sudan and the UAE. He indicated that the UAE authorities alleged that seven of the diplomats at the embassy had been receiving information on the situation of the Sudanese community in UAE and, thus, ought to leave the country as person non grata.

The ambassador said the embassy had been responsible for observing the conditions of the Sudanese community. He pointed out that the Sudanese Embassy in the UAE has delivered a number of memos of protest to the UAE authorities regarding the arrests and torture of the Sudan community members in the UAE. Numayri explained that the authorities in the UAE did not inform the embassy on the arrests and investigation against the Sudanese community members, saying relatives of the detainees usually tend to inform the embassy on their detention by the security authorities.

He described the problems being faced by the Sudanese in the UAE as manifestation of the recent Gulf crisis, indicating that the press and mass media in the UAE had continuously been attacking the Sudanese leadership.

The Sudanese ambassador in the UAE was received Tuesday by the Foreign Minister Ali Sahlul and a number of the ministry's officials.

Al-Bashir Says Expulsions 'Unjustified'

EA0901120592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1653 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jan (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, Wednesday expressed astonishment over the recent decision by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) expelling the Sudanese ambassador and other embassy staff from the country, saying that it was unjustified. The RCC chairman, speaking during his regular meeting with the executives of the national mass media here Wednesday, said that it is [words indistinct].

Garang Asserts Commitment to SPLM Cease-Fire

PM0801115892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 92 p 5

[Interview with John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, by Emma Sharp in Nairobi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sharp] What about the peace negotiations with Riek Mashar's wing? Is the cease-fire still in force?

[Garang] The cease-fire is in force, for we are committed to peace and reconciliation. In fact, this was the first decision of our supreme leadership's meeting in Torit in September—namely, the need to resolve disputes and to settle the conflict in a spirit of reconciliation, unity, and consistency. This is what has been achieved, and we are committed to it. The cease-fire agreement was reached on 21 November, and there is no fighting in the Bor area or beyond.

[Sharp] Do you believe that the movement should resolve some of the problems mentioned by the Riek Mashar wing, such as making the movement democratic?

[Garang] We are committed to achieving peace, whatever the al-Nasir group's problems. We are willing to discuss them. And this is what should have happened—that is, we should not have resorted to fighting and coups. [passage omitted]

[Sharp] Let us move on to the Juba issue. It is said that the government has created a kind of human shield around Juba, so that hundreds of civilians will be killed if the Sudanese People's Liberation Army attacks Juba. Do you have any message to the civilians in Juba?

[Garang] I cannot usually discuss military plans. We are planning and discussing, however, how to avert a human tragedy. We know that the government has spread the dispossessed around Juba as a human shield in order to absorb the first offensive. But we have contingency plans to avert a human tragedy. I will not go into any further detail, but I assure the civilians that we are thinking about them seriously.

[Sharp] Could a substantial corridor be created for them, to allow them to leave in the event of a clash with government forces?

[Garang] There has to be coordination. But those who want to leave must know what they are going to do, because things cannot be left to chance. We are doing something in this regard, but I cannot go into details. [passage omitted]

'Fierce Fighting' Breaks Out

EA0801204992 Khartoum SUNA in English 1651 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jan (SUNA)—Fierce fighting erupted between the two warring factions of rebel movement. The clash is flagrant violation of the recent cease-fire agreement reached between them last 29th November. The daily AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH Wednesday reported that the armed forces in the vicinity heard the exchange of heavy exchange of fire between the two factions near Mongalla town.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses said that civilians were exposed, during the clash, to mass massacre, especially among the Dinka tribe, the paper said. The inhabitants were forced to move southward to Uganda via Equatoria State, it added.

Relying on reliable sources, the paper has affirmed that because of the heavy fighting, the forces of rebel John Garang, which used to shell Juba town from time to time, had fled the area in disarray.

The paper quoted a journalist affiliated to SUDAN MONITOR [as saying] that she saw the decomposed corpses resulting from the fighting scattered along the road from Mongalla to Junqali and Bor areas, and that relief workers from Norway operating near the area have also seen hundreds of bodies in the road leading to Jummayzah and Bor towns.

It also said that the number of those who surrendered to the armed forces since early last November has reached 134 rebels, adding that the rebel defectors had furnished very important information about the deteriorating situation of the two wings of the rebel movement.

Kuwait

INA Reports Clashes With Iranians, 'Chaos'

JN0801205892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Al-Basrah, 8 Jan (INA)—The al-Rumaythiyah area in Kuwait has been the scene of sectarian clashes between Kuwaitis and Iranian nationals.

Arrivals from Kuwait affirmed to an INA correspondent in al- Basrah Governorate that after the expulsion of Arab citizens, the Iranians increased their presence, their intervention in daily life, and their abnormal religious rites.

The arrivals explained that during the Christmas and New Year holidays, chaos fully prevailed in Kuwait as large numbers of U.S. troops left to spend the holidays with their families in the United States. Long lines of Kuwaiti officials' cars lined up at gas stations to have their tanks filled with gas in preparation to flee Kuwait as a result of the spread of rumors, the fragile security situation, and the rising crime rate.

Saudi Arabia

More on Joint Communique Signed With Syria

LD0801161992 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Jan 8, SPA—The joint Saudi-Syrian commission for bilateral cooperation concluded its second meeting which was jointly chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. The commission which includes key ministers from both countries reviewed the cooperation and coordination procession between them in all fields.

The commission, in a final communique issued here late last night, also reviewed all Islamic, Arab and international issues of common interest and expressed with deep appreciation the spirit of fraternal solidarity [that] existed between the Kingdom and Syria as well as their noble stand beside justice, rightness and the principles of the international law which had culminated in the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its freedom, sovereignty and independence.

The two sides renewed their adherence and commitment to the full implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, especially resolutions 706 and 712 which call for the alleviation of the human sufferings of the Iraqi people. They regretted the Iraqi regime's pursuit of its humilation policy against the Iraqi people and renewed their sympathy with the Iraqi people and their full keenness over the integrity of Iraq and its regional safety. [passage omitted]

Tanks Said in Baghdad; Ba'th Official Executed

LD0801203692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tanks and armored vehicles of the Iraqi Army have taken up positions on the streets of Baghdad and the roads leading to the Iraqi capital.

According to the Radio of Iraq's Patriotic Kurdistan, the Iraqi Army also has set up checkpoints on all the roads leading to the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

The report says: The popular forces attacked a military base of Saddam's army in Karbala' last week, inflicting casualties and material damage on the Iraqi troops stationed there.

Another report from Iraq says: A member of the Command Council of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, 'Abd Al-Husayn Radhi Fir'awn, has been executed on Saddam's orders for opposing the suppression of Muslims in the Iraqi holy cities.

Saddam Receives 'Arafat in Baghdad 8 Jan

JN0801202292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received here today Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and vice president; and Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister.

The Palestinian delegation accompanying Mr. 'Arafat consists of PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani and Muhammad Isma'il, and Palestinian ambassador to Iraq 'Azzam al-Ahmad.

Vienna Talks on Oil Exports Reported

JN0801181792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 8 Jan 92

[From the "Spotlights on the News" program]

[Excerpt] Iraqi and UN experts began talks in Vienna today on how to export Iraqi oil and meet the Iraqi people's need for food, medicine, and other essentials in light of the unjust blockade imposed against Iraq. Meanwhile, Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has stressed that Iraq's position on the unjust Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 remains unchanged. Dear listeners, this is a report on the Vienna talks and Iraq's position on them. The report is read by Akram Muhsin:

[Begin Muhsin recording] An Iraqi delegation headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's representative to the United Nations, met with a UN delegation headed by UN Assistant Secretary General Kofi Annan in Vienna today. The UN press office in Vienna said the two delegations opened two days of meetings on how to export Iraqi oil to meet the Iraqi people's need for food, medicine, and other necessary supplies.

On the eve of the Vienna talks, Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Hiti renewed Iraq's position on Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which allow for the export of an amount of Iraqi oil under unfair terms that harm Iraq's sovereignty and the dignity of its people, let alone the fact that the terms are difficult to meet or implement. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, the oil minister stressed that Iraq's position on unjust Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 remains unchanged. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Resolution on Deportations Termed 'New Disgrace'

JN0801175692 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our Palestinian Arab people everywhere: The exposed game, called condemnation of the Zionist enemy's decision to deport 12 Palestinian citizens, is a source of ridicule. If America's Arabs see in the resolution a way out of their impasse, we view it as a new disgrace for them and for the UN Security Council [UNSC], which is being run by, and in the manner that pleases, the administration of the killer of Arab children, George Bush.

The resolution is not binding on the Zionist enemy. If Bush's administration had found in the resolution anything that hurts or angers its Zionist ally, it would have used its veto against it. The resolutions of the American Security Council are binding only when they are directed against our Arab nation, as happened, and is happening, with our brave Arab Iraq. The successive and illegal resolutions issued by the Security Council against Iraq demanded that the country implement them within a fixed time frame, or else other sanctions would be enforced.

Why did the resolution that condemned the deportation not include a threat to the Zionist enemy? Why should the Security Council be content with merely hoping that the terrorist government reconsider its position? The reason is very simple: To give terrorist Shamir a chance to reject it, which is now the case, and to give those who were expecting no more loss of face a chance to run to Washington to sign the documents selling Palestine, the Golan, and the virtuous Arab blood, the blood of martyrs that has been spilled over eight decades.

Once again, we say that this is the double standard of the new world order, the order of American-Zionist hegemony, the order of the traitor rulers, who sold out everything—yes, everything.

Opposition Leader To Visit Saudi Arabia, Syria

NC0801150192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, will visit Saudi Arabia soon to emphasize cooperation between the Iraqi opposition and Saudi Arabia. The paper [not further identified] cited several Arab sources as saying that Saudi, Iranian, and Syrian officials met on the sidelines of the Islamic summit in Dakar to discuss Saddam's overthrow. The officials noted that their governments are not pleased that Saddam is still in power in Iraq, and they are increasingly concerned about the consequences of the continued UN sanctions on the Iraqi people.

Bayan Jabir, one of al-Hakim's aides, has said that Iran and Saudi Arabia believe that the only way to restore peace and prosperity to the Iraqi people is to oust Saddam.

On Plans To Overthrow Saddam

LD0801151792 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—"Preparation committees" will soon declare their existence by the Iraqi opposition to ouster Saddam's regime, said the leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim in an interview with IRNA here Tuesday.

He said the decision had been taken in Syria last month by the various groups opposing the present regime in Baghdad.

Asked about the achievements of his trip to Damascus he said it aimed to get Syrian support and the assistance of the neighboring Muslim countries to the Iraqi people. "We also talked about the need to overthrow the Iraqi regime.

Referring to clashes between the mujahidin and the Iraqi Army in the south over the past five months, he said the Iraqi Army is preparing for an extensive military attack against the people of the region. He also said the army has created embankments along 170 kilometers from al-Nasiriyah to al-'Amarah to prevent attacks by the mujahidin.

'Full Diplomatic Relations' Due With PRC

TA0801180892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Israel and China have decided to establish full diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level. An announcement on this will be made this month during Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Beijing. This was reported by the magazine FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, issued in Hong Kong. The magazine added that the Israeli foreign minister's visit will be considered a prelude to China's participation in the round of multilateral talks scheduled to be held in Moscow this month. It is worth noting that the Chinese vice foreign minister visited Israel two weeks ago.

Details of Draft Statement Released

TA0901101192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Jan 92 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpts] Israel and China have decided to set up full diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. A joint statement is due to be issued Sunday [12 January].

The details were finalized during the visit here by PRC Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang two weeks ago. The senior PRC official met here with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and other senior officials. He handed Foreign Minister David Levi a message from his Chinese counterpart which included an invitation to visit China in the near future.

Our political correspondent has the draft of the joint statement to be announced next week simultaneously in Jerusalem and Beijing. The announcement will say that the Israeli Government recognizes that the PRC Government is the sole and exclusive representative of Taiwan, which is an integral part of Chinese territory.

The statement will also say that the two governments decided to open friendly relations between their countries and to cooperate on the basis of accepted universal principles, with mutual respect for each other's territorial sovereignty and without intervention in the internal affairs of either side.

The document's signing ceremony will be held in Beijing on 24 January, during Foreign Minister David Levi's official visit. Levi will leave for China on 20 January and will stay there four days. These details were agreed upon during the PRC vice foreign minister's visit here.

Israel suggested that the document on the establishment of relations be printed in three languages—Chinese, Hebrew, and English. It was agreed that if there is a dispute between the two countries, the English version will be the decisive one. The Chinese left Israel with the Hebrew version of the document on the establishment of relations, which is bound in leather and tied with a blue and white ribbon. [passage omitted]

Israel's first ambassador in the Chinese capital will be Ze'ev Sufot. Sufot, the former Israeli ambassador to the Netherlands and a senior member of the Foreign Service, was sent to China to head the Israeli representation there when relations began to warm up.

No Permission for Military Exports to Yugoslavia

TA0701155292 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] "The Defense Ministry did not give permission to any person or company to export weapons or military know-how to Yugoslavia," the Defense Ministry spokesman said yesterday in response to a question by 'AL HAMISHMAR.

It will be recalled that French television's Channel 1 reported over the weekend that Israeli arms dealers are involved in selling weapons and ammunition to the Croatian army. The report mentions the dispatch of Stinger shoulder-fired missiles from Afghanistan.

Defense Ministry sources said that they do not know about Israeli arms dealers who received official permission to deal with that issue in those areas at the present time. The ministry spokesman said that "the Defense Ministry did not give permission to negotiate the export of arms or know-how to the region. The Defense Ministry supervises the export of arms and know-how in accordance with the law."

Security sources in Israel said that immediately after the battles broke out in Yugoslavia the defense establishment imposed a full embargo on the sale of arms and ammunition to the fighting sides in Croatia despite the tempting offers received from Israeli military industries to export arms to the fighting zones.

Jordanian, Palestinian Delegations Leave for U.S.

JN0901095592 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, 9 Jan (PETRA)—The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the bilateral peace talks left Amman this morning for Washington. The talks are expected to begin next week.

In a pre-departure statement to PETRA, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, said he hopes Israel will not lay any hurdles on the path of peace during the next round of talks and will enter into direct discussion on the substance of the peace process.

Asked if a new date has been set for starting the negotiations, he said contacts will take place once the delegation arrives in Washington to set a date for the first session of talks and to agree on the method in which it will be conducted.

Dr. al-Majali asserted that the UN Security Council's condemnation of the Israeli authorities' decision to expel the 12 Palestinian citizens will have a positive effect on the peace process. He said this condemnation is a very important indication by the UN Security Council in the face of the Israeli provocation.

Dr. al-Majali pointed out that Israel has always employed Western media to justify its policies on any point. He said he hopes Israel will understand that it can no longer fool the Western media and public opinion into believing that the Arabs are the ones who reject peace. He said that with its ceaseless provocations, Israel shows the world that it is the one that lays obstacles to peace and not the Arabs.

He commended the coordination existing among the Arab parties taking part in the peace talks. He stressed that the Jordanian delegation will continue to coordinate with the other Arab delegations, particularly the Palestinian brothers, during the forthcoming peace talks.

For her part, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said she believes the direct bilateral negotiations will immediately proceed on two tracks, without any hindrance or delay.

She said Israel was not able to dictate its will on everybody; it tried and failed the first time, and will not succeed this time either. She underscored Arab rights and the need for Israel to abide by agreements and rules.

'Ashrawi praised coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace negotiations and said this coordination is being conducted with a high degree of understanding, competence, and continuity. This was evident in the cohesive and unified decision to put off the departure of the Arab delegations pending the issuance of the Security Council resolution on the deportations, she said.

Dr. 'Ashrawi explained that the deportation policy is part of the escalatory measures which Israel used in a bid to make the Palestinian people under occupation pay the price of the peace process through daily human suffering. Furthermore, this policy is an attempt to undermine the peace process, and is a defiance of international will, she said.

She said the unified Arab position on the deportation orders proved to the world that the Arabs constitute a unified will, and that the Arab governments will not allow Israel to single out any party.

She said we believe that Israel will take further provocative measures against the Palestinian people. She noted that Israel has stepped up such practices, especially settlement activity, since the visits of the U.S. secretary of state to the region last year.

She said we will not fall prey to the Israeli provocations, nor will our policy be one of reactions. She called on the world to confront Israel through international legitimacy and through the peace process, with a view to curbing Israel's practices by creating a strong world deterrence.

'Ashrawi added: We are realistic and we insist on achievement, continuity, and challenge because we have right on our side and because we have a cause. We must present our case strongly and continue our political struggle to attain our rights.

'Ashrawi, Nusaybah Comment

JN0801184692 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a statement to our political affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi, the Palestinian delegation affirmed that the Washington talks will be conducted along two tracks:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Dr. Hanan, do you expect significant results from the upcoming phase of talks in Washington?

[Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation] We will do our best to make the results significant and to render the talks substantive because we do not want to see time wasted while Israel steps up its practices against the defenseless Palestinian people.

[Samawi] What about the sentiments of the kinfolk in the occupied territories? How did you leave the people there?

['Ashrawi] As a matter of fact, there is a strong feeling of pain, sadness, and wrath. The Palestinian people will not agree to be Israel's victim without the latter being held accountable, without intervention to make Israel halt its practices. This is what we are trying to do right now. We are challenging the world community, international will, and international legitimacy to honor its principles and to implement its resolutions regarding the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people refuse to be victims or hostages. They are a steadfast people. Besides, they have the ability to conduct a responsible political analysis. Furthermore, they are aware of the difficulty of the march, and also of this political challenge posed us. They

also, however, have feelings of anger. They are holding out, and are continuing the intifadah to confront Israeli practices.

[Samawi] Dr. Sari, in your opinion, do you think that the Arab decision to postpone the departure for Washington has achieved the desired objective?

[Sari Nusaybah, member of the Palestinian advisory council] In my opinion, yes, to a large extent it has. We have managed to elicit international support for the unified Arab position regarding the deportees and the Fourth Geneva Convention on occupied territory. This is a battle between ourselves and the occupation. We do not think that the occupation authorities will cease or halt their repressive measures. They will persist with them. As for us, we will continue the negotiations until we reach the point at which we will be able to dispense completely with this occupation, with the [word indistinct] measures entailed.

[Samawi] If Israel persists in its position and refuses to return the deportees, or to rescind its decision on those ordered deported, will such a step influence the continuation of the peace process?

[Nusaybah] Certainly, this will influence the peace process. However, I would like to tell you something: Israel wants to provoke the Arab sides and the Palestinian side. As a matter of fact, we expect Israel to step up its repressive measures. Indeed, we expect Israel to escalate its repressive measures this year. For our part, we will continue the negotiations because we have confidence in our strategy, and in ourselves as well. Furthermore, we know why we are going and negotiating. Should we reach a point at which we decide that we will not continue with the negotiations, this will be our own decision. We will not allow Israel to decide when we halt the negotiations and when we head for the negotiations. [end recording]

Palestinian Delegates Comment

JN0801203792 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report on statements by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, including recorded interviews with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks; and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian side of the joint delegation, by an unidentified reporter at the "King Husayn bridge" crossing on 8 January]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said today that the Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations to the bilateral peace talks with Israel will leave for Washington tomorrow. Dr. Abu-Jabir said the Arab-Israeli talks will be conducted on a two-track approach, a Jordanian-Israeli and a Palestinian-Israeli.

The Palestinian negotiating team arrived in Amman this morning from the Israeli-occupied territories across the King Husayn bridge. They will hold further consultations with Jordanian officials before flying to Washington.

[Begin video recording] [Reporter] Mrs. 'Ashrawi: How did the United Nations Resolution 627 affect your decision to pursue your role and go again to Washington for the peace talks?

['Ashrawi] Well, 627 is a step in the right direction. We feel that it has provided a minimal level of accountability for Israel, and protection for the Palestinians. We feel it was also decided among the Arab countries that such a resolution would be sufficient to start this round of negotiations. We know that condemnations and resolutions without implementation would not be sufficient. We need to make sure that there is a follow-up. We need to make sure that there is implementation.

[Reporter] Do you think this time too the talks will take place in the corridors, or it would be the two-track, as it was scheduled to be?

['Ashrawi] We are determined that it will be on both tracks, that it will not be corridor diplomacy again. We do not have time to waste, and we will not be involved in any side issues and sidetracking by the Israelis. I think that the Israelis have finally seen the error of their ways, because they have expressed their willingness to proceed on the two-track approach.

[Reporter] Dr. Sa'ib: If Israel continues to show its intransigence concerning the recent United Nations resolution, how can you foretell the international community's response to that?

['Urayqat] Well, I should remind that this is the 10th resolution passed by the Security Council since 1980 concerning deportations. And at one point, the world must understand there are two tracks going on now: the peace process, and Israel's intransigence and noncompliance with the will of the international community. Both tracks cannot go at the same time. Either for Israel to continue its settlement policies, provocative actions, defying international community's wishes and orders, or for the peace process to continue. We had hoped that this new resolution will have some binding effect on Israel. [end recording]

Al-Majali on Regional Talks, Separate Delegations

JN0901071792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Jordanian delegation head Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has affirmed that Jordan has no objection that the regional negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis taking place in parallel with the bilateral negotiations, and that any success realized in the bilateral negotiations will affect the regional negotiations and vice versa.

Dr.'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who was speaking to our radio yesterday evening on the "Today's Guest" program, explained that the date for beginning the regional negotiations remains as had been set during the Madrid

conference—on 28 January in Moscow. Concluding, al-Majali reaffirmed that the idea of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has not existed since the start of the negotiations in Madrid and that there are two delegations, the first a Jordanian delegation and the other a Palestinian delegation, and that the negotiations with the Israeli delegation will be conducted by each delegation separately.

Parliament Approves Draft Law on Money Exchange

JN0901081792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 92 pp 1,5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday approved a draft law on exchange houses in the Kingdom to clear the way for resumed free-market foreign currency dealings by private operators after a hiatus of 35 months.

In technical terms, the House approved a temporary law of 1976 which established exchange houses in the Kingdom and a 1989 repeal of the 1976 law and endorsed the new legislation drafted in 1990, one year after the government of Zayd al-Rifa'i ordered the 68 moneychangers in Jordan closed down and liquidated.

Under the provisions of the new law, which now goes before the Upper House (Senate), moneychangers could be licensed by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) with a minimum capital of JD [Jordanian dinars] 250,000 for a general partnership company, JD 500,000 for a limited partnership and JD 1 million for a public shareholding company.

In addition, small operators could open exchange houses near Jordan's land borders with a minimum capital of JD 100,000. In all cases, 30 per cent of the capital should be deposited with the CBJ either in the form of a bank guarantee from or a deposit with a commercial bank.

In addition to the regular function of changing foreign currency in cash, moneychangers can also transfer money abroad to finance medical treatment and education for Jordanians as well as for tourism under the regulations laid down by the CBJ, which will also set the tax and licensing fee for the exchange houses.

The exchange houses can accept properly accounted remittances from abroad.

The law provides for punishment of one month to six months in jail, a fine between JD 5,000 and JD 10,000 and cancellation of the licences for repeated violations of the law's provisions despite CBJ warnings.

The CBJ is also empowered to audit the books of accounts of any moneychanger at any time it chooses and to close down the operation of a firm for a period not exceeding 15 days if such action was deemed necessary.

"The law has enough provisions to protect the client and safeguard the financial and monetary health of the market," House legal Committee head Husayn Mujalli was quoted as saying by Reuters.

"It will prevent the occurrence of previous malpractices."

In its closure order against moneychangers issued in February 1989, the then government accused the exchange houses of speculating in the Jordanian dinar, accepting deposits from the public and transferring money abroad in violation of CBJ regulations.

The closure order was issued at the height of a dinar crisis—accentuated by the Kingdom's $8.3 billion foreign debt burden—during which the currency lost 50 per cent of its value.

Banking experts said they expected the new law to eliminate the black market in foreign exchange and to go a long way in restoring confidence in the Jordanian economy and currency.

For several months now, the difference between the CBJ-set official foreign exchange rates and the black market rates has been relatively insignificant—less than two per cent—and officials have said that direct government intervention in the market was warranted only if the difference exceeds 10 per cent.

"No more street-side "exchange houses," said a banking executive referring to the dozens of individual operators who could be seen in downtown Amman offering to buy and sell foreign currency.

'Pro-Iranian Sources' Rule Out Hostage Release

NC0801180592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pro-Iranian sources today ruled out the possibility of releasing the two Germans being held in Lebanon despite UN envoy Giandomenico Picco's efforts.

Bonn continues to reject exchanging the two German hostages for the Hammadi brothers, who are in German jails.

Birri, Junblatt To End Boycott of Cabinet

NC0901073692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The cabinet began the new year with a political solution that will be manifested in the next session when Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt will end their boycott of cabinet sessions and efforts will be made to complete the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement as a reasonable solution to the differences between the president, the chamber of deputies speaker, and the prime minister regarding their jurisdictions.

Political sources said that during his recent talks in Beirut, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stressed the need to complete the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement because of its connection to the future of the Syrian military presence in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Minister Nabih Birri has commented on the situation, saying that it is the beginning of a solution. I will return to the cabinet, together with Minister Walid Junblatt, as soon as the committee formed by the cabinet to prepare the cabinet's internal regulations completes its work. Birri announced that he will not attend today's cabinet session, which will be devoted to discussing media reorganization. He affirmed that he supports freedom of information and is against the dictating of opinion. Just as it is impossible to have autocratic rule in Lebanon, likewise the existence of government-affiliated media alone should not be allowed, he added.

Birri Criticizes Government, Stresses Resistance

NC0501143492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has stated that the current regime is following the same practices as those of former President Amin al-Jumayyil's era. It is trying to absolve itself of everything, yet causes everything, he added.

Responding to the president's remarks yesterday, Birri said that the militias made many mistakes but were not wrong to fight Israel or call for unity. He added: The president was brought to power by a specific sectarian regime. We are not ready to be rulers or ruled because we are all partners in this homeland, he added.

Speaking during an Amal Movement rally to commemorate its martyrs, Birri noted a conspiracy against the Army: General 'Awn's followers, even those who have retired, being brought back to join its ranks. He warned against tampering with the Army, particularly after it had started taking up defensive positions in the south.

Birri asked why so many areas, particularly Beirut's southern suburb, are left unattended. He accused the state of not daring to issue an official statement on the American University of Beirut explosion.

Birri said that the U.S. statement after the al-Bastah explosion, which questioned Lebanese internal security, is more dangerous than the bomb itself because it affects the country's development and recovery. He noted that the hallmarks of the two explosions are identical, but nobody is facing that. It is not a security issue, he said, but a political one.

Birri added: We will not abandon the weapons of the resistance, which does not differentiate between the regime that brought Israel into Lebanon in 1982 and others.

Reports on Visit by Libya's al-Kharrubi

Received by al-Asad

JN0801154292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the leadership of the Libyan revolution and the inspector general of the Armed Forces in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; Ahmad Bin-Khayyal, secretary general of the General Peoples Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation in the Libyan Jamahiriyah; and Humayyid Jallud, director of the Libyan relations bureau in Damascus.

Col. al-Kharrubi conveyed to the president a letter from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution Command Council. The president asked him to convey a letter of reply. Discussion centered on the situation in the region, and issues of mutual interest.

Confers With Talas

JN0801181092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus, 8 Jan (SANA)—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office this afternoon Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the leadership of the Libyan revolution and the inspector general of the Armed Forces in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; and Humayyid Jallud, director of the Libyan relations bureau in Damascus. General Hasan Turkumani, deputy chief of staff, also attended the meeting.

The talks centered on the brotherly and cooperative relations between the two brotherly countries in the service of their mutual interests, and means of strengthening and promoting these ties.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Confers With al-Shar'

JN0801162392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] A session of official talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between delegations representing Syria, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Bulgaria, headed by Mr. Stoyan Ganev, Bulgarian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The talks concentrated on traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples and countries. Both sides stressed their joint desire to widen and deepen the horizons of these relations in all fields. They also conducted a general evaluation of developments in the peace process and the two sides' willingness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, represented by the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In this regard, mention was made of the serious Arab position in pushing the peace process forward while Israel is persevering in placing various obstacles along the road to peace.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN0801191992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] At 1800 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Bulgarian Charge d'Affaires in Damascus (Dimitur Shantov).

Ganev conveyed to the president a letter from Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev. The president asked him to convey a letter of reply. Ganev also conveyed to the president an invitation to visit Bulgaria, which the president accepted thankfully and promised to fulfill when convenient.

Discussion centered on the situation in the Middle East, the peace process, and the promotion of bilateral relations.

Departs; Economic Talks in March

JN0901100492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Stoyan Ganev, Bulgaria's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus this morning following a two-day visit to Syria.

Ganev was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Damascus and the Embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA correspondent before departure, Ganev said his two-hour meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was important. He also said the talks he held with the foreign minister were very useful for the bilateral ties.

He said: We have agreed with the Syrian officials to begin discussing and tackling certain issues related to bilateral cooperation, particularly those related to the economy. He pointed out that these discussions will start in March.

Ganev said he thinks his visit has achieved its objectives concerning the improvement and strengthening of ties with Syria.

Paper Laments 'Agony' of Iraqi People, Army

JN0901072392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article entitled "The Irony," AL-THAWRAH disusses the agony of our people and army

in Iraq as a result of the mad lusts of Iraq's rulers. It asks: Is the death and destruction caused by the regime's mad wars not enough for the wounded Iraqi people? Should they pay the price of the defeats and disasters brought by a regime that is now acting on the principle of Baghdad Is Enough for Me, a regime that never hesitates even to burn Baghdad to keep power in its hands? It is nothing but the power of blood, smacking everywhere of death, coercion, and hunger.

Increased Arab Cohesion Toward Victory Urged

JN0801172892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Once again, Israel is mistaken in believing that the entire world has become an open field where it can commit all its follies and launch all its evils without being held accountable. Also, once again Israel has failed to gain international support for a decision it made in violation of the spirit and letter of international law. It finds itself faced with a strong condemnation signed by the representatives of the highest international body in the world, stressing once again that Israel is an occupying force and that expulsions and deportations from the occupied Arab territories are aggressive actions on which the international community cannot remain silent, regardless of the motives and pretexts. Moreover, once again the soundness of the logic—saying that the unity and solidarity of the Arab stance help create an international position that understands our rights, supports our just demands, and helps expand the horizons before the peace process on the clear and frank bases which we accepted to lead our way to the peace conference—is proven.

The Security Council resolution issued yesterday clearly and frankly condemns Israel, calls on it to rescind its deportation decision against 12 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories, and stresses that it must bring back all those who have been expelled and deported. We say that this Security Council resolution expresses the international community's rejection of the Israeli practices, which contradict with all principles of international legitimacy, obstruct all efforts for peace in the region, and thwart any sincere effort to render the peace conference a success. On the other hand, the Security Council resolution reflects the worthiness of Arab agreement on the grounds of national interests, adherence to their full rights, and unification of ranks in front of the world so that the world will stand on their side and support them in the battles of war and peace.

Whoever examines Israel's situation now, realizes that it has squeezed itself into a narrow corner, exposed before the entire world, and that its means and objectives as an occupying force, that exploits world problems to serve its policy of expansion and aggression, are exposed. One will also realize that hostility to peace is an unchangeable Israeli policy, no matter what the circumstances and the vicissitudes of life.

Hence, the Arab decision we announced yesterday—that the Arab delegations will leave for Washington to resume peace talks within the coming two days—is in harmony with the position we have always declared; namely, that we are serious about the peace process, that we are not asking the world for more than our rights, and that our agreement to participate in the peace conference means our acceptance of international law and international legitimacy as an honest arbitrator through which we can restore our rights and land, and thereby attain a just and comprehensive peace.

To make the most of the situation we enjoy now in the battle for peace, and to push it forward, all Arabs must exert more efforts toward further cohesion, and accurately understand this stage through which we can lead our steps on solid ground to the anticipated victory.

'Tragic' Era for World if Peace Moves Fail

JN0801095292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Washington and the Storm Harvest," TISHRIN says: When Damascus agreed to participate in the ongoing peace process, it was not because it was hoping that the Tel Aviv rulers' intentions would improve or that Israel's rejection of peace would change. There can be no development in the Israeli position because it is made up of ideas and principles that are hostile to peace, stability, and justice. Syria accepted the U.S. initiative because it felt a serious desire on the part of the U.S. Administration to achieve a just and permanent peace in the region in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy and because Washington showed some indications that it was ready to adopt stands that are close to justice and logic. In addition, U.S. President Bush announced his commitment to the international resolutions calling for the inadmissibility of taking land by force. He also agreed on the principle of a just and comprehensive solution and affirmed that the policy of land annexation and armament do not guarantee Israel's security. He expressed concern to free U.S. decisionmaking from Zionist hegemony. This was evident in the battle of the U.S. loans to Israel, in setting the date and venue for the second round of talks, and in the stand on settlement in the occupied territory. These factors gave more seriousness to the U.S. position and increased the conviction that America is determined to end the most dangerous conflict in the world, a conflict which threatens world security and stability. [passage omitted]

TISHRIN adds: Israel, not the Arabs, is planting mines before the American initiative to deprive President Bush of any success that would consolidate his position on the

internal level, particularly since the presidential elections are imminent. Therefore, if Washington wants its peace initiative to succeed it should remove the Israeli obstacle to the peace process. The removal of this obstacle cannot be achieved through expressing hope and showing indifference toward and disinterest in the Israelis' provocative acts that are hostile to peace. Statements condemning the actions of the Tel Aviv rulers are not sufficient. Facts have shown that the Shamir government has exploited the hesitant and appeasing stand adopted by Washington recently to escalate its intransigence and rejection of all peace efforts and to activate fanatical Zionist groups. Evidence of this is that Washington's effort to annul the resolution equating Zionism with racism did not convince the Tel Aviv rulers to become moderate, but encouraged them to show more extremism.

In the wake of this decision, Israel doubled its repressive and terrorist measures against the Arab citizens in the occupied territory; it even adopted a decision to expel 12 Palestinians. In the wake of this decision, the Israeli Government allocated $6.5 billion for this year alone to establish Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territory. Afterward, the competent Israeli authorities laid down a plan to increase Jewish immigration to 1 million immigrants this year alone. Therefore, the influence of the extremist religious parties in Israel has increased, and the Labor Party went back on its previous moderate programs and announced it complete and absolute bias toward the extremists' stand calling for not withdrawing from the occupied territory. In such a manner, Israel's intransigence increased in the second round of the Washington talks, and the Tel Aviv rulers went back on many issues which they had accepted in the Madrid conference. Thus, it has become clear that if the United States wants its initiative to succeed, it should apply comprehensive pressure to make the Tel Aviv rulers resort to peace and reason.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Arabs, led by Syria, hope that Washington will fulfill its commitments vis-a-vis the peace process and that it will interpret the U.S. desire for peace into specific facts to curb those rejecting the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. If this is not achieved, a tragic and sad era is awaiting this region and the world. The Middle East is the key for spreading security and stability in the whole world. In addition, the collapse of the peace efforts, because of Israeli intransigence, will inevitably break U.S. credibility and undermine the U.S. presence in the region. In the old days they said: He who sows the wind will reap a storm.

AL-BA'TH says: Since adopting the decision to expel the Palestinians from their land, Israel has been reiterating its adherence to its intransigent position, thereby defying international will and proving that it has no desire for peace. When the international community condemned the enemy's repressive policy, the international community welcomed this decision, with the exception of Israel, which considered it a disappointment. Instead of backing down from its policy of deportation, expulsion, and eviction, Israel insisted on its position and opposed the international consensus condemning this stand on the one hand and supporting peace efforts on the other. [passage omitted]

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The welcoming of the Security Council resolution on all levels made observers say that the international stand still supports the peace efforts and provides it with the appropriate climate to move ahead toward their target. Thus, Israel's intransigence and its repressive policy have become isolated before the international community. Its only option is to succumb to international will and to provide evidence of its desire for peace, that is, if it really seeks peace.

Bangladesh

Burma Agrees To Regular Talks on Border Issues

BK0801162592 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Myanmar [Burma] has agreed to Bangladesh's proposal for holding the flag meeting regularly to ensure a peaceful border.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Dhaka that Myanmar informed this at the second flag meeting which ended at Teknaf this morning. Bangladesh has proposed the holding of third flag meeting on the 16th of this month. The two rounds of talks have helped the two countries to (?subside) the tension which flared up after the Myanmar forces raided a Bangladesh border post on the 21st of last month, killing one BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] jawan [soldier] and injuring several others.

BSS said Myanmar troops have pulled back one to three km from their earlier positions along the border following the talks.

Iran

Velayati Urges Ties With Soviet Asian Republics

LD0801115992 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Vienna, Jan. 8, IRNA—A three-day seminar of Iranian ambassadors in European countries opened here Tuesday to discuss the latest international developments and Iran's ties with these countries. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who arrived here Tuesday for the seminar said in his inaugural speech that Iran will closely follow developments in the former Soviet Union while maintaining initiative of action and a moderate stand.

Velayati said consolidation of Iran's ties with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council members was constructive and stressed that Iran is determined to establish an overall cooperation with her neighbours for the sake of regional security and stability. Emphasizing significance of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan cooperating within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), he said that Iran will welcome membership of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union in ECO. The forthcoming ECO summit meet will be held in Tehran in the near future which among other things will review membership of new states, he told the seminar.

Palestinian problem, the U.N. Resolution 598, Afghanistan crisis, developments in the Middle and Near East, Europe and Yugoslavia as well as the Maastricht meeting and changes in the United Nations are issues in the agenda of the three-day seminar.

Government 'Ready' To Return 6 Kuwaiti Aircraft

LD0801105192 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—"Iran is ready to return six Kuwaiti aircraft to the owner—the Kuwaiti Government," disclosed head of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assad Kotaite here Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference at the end of a week-long visit to Iran, Kotaite said that he inspected the six Kuwaiti aircraft in Mashhad, capital of the northwestern province of Khorasan.

The aircraft were flown to Iran by the Iraqi pilots during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which led to the joint Washington-allied forces attack on Iraq and the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait last February.

The ICAO official described his talks with Iranian officials as "positive" and said that Iran had announced readiness to cooperate with ICAO in all related fields.

Kotaite praised Iran for observing the international civil aviation rules and regulations and said that facilities of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) were sufficient to meet domestic needs.

Moreover, he added, the higher education complex of CAO could arrange and sponsor international training courses.

He termed the "Imam Khomeyni" airport project in southern Tehran as a "successful project." Upon completion the airport would handle 30 million passengers per year.

The ICAO head said that the fall in tourism and air travel will drag on for another year and blamed Iraq-Iran and the Persian Gulf wars for the recession.

During his stay in Iran, Kotaite met and held talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of other officials.

He also visited historical monuments in Esfahan Province, central Iran.

Paper Criticizes Iraq's 'Warmongering' Remarks

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[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial Wednesday commented on the recent remarks by the Iraqi president and defense minister that Iraq is ready for a war. The Baghdad regime finds its survival linked to waging wars. Such warmongering statements speak of dreams of the Iraqi regime of fresh wars and indicate that Baghdad has not taken lessons from the two wars it waged in an 11-year period. The remarks of the Iraqi defense minister putting Iran in a category with the Arab reactionaries and Israel and calling them the three major enemies of Baghdad are "terribly spiteful and shameless."

These absurd statements contradict Saddam Husayn's peace gestures and his claims of friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran and prove that such claims were mere propaganda ploys. The statements may be interpreted as signs of interest of the ruling Iraqi regime in a new military confrontation. "The warmongering remarks of the Iraqi regime must be taken seriously. These remarks warn the region and the oppressed Iraqi nation of ominous consequences."

The Iraqi regime despite being found responsible for two devastating wars, is still fostering the idea of a fresh military adventure and the question is whose turn will be this time?

"As long as the ruling clique is in power in Iraq, the region will experience no stability. In other words, the Iraqi people have to settle their score with Saddam once and for all. Otherwise, once again they will be engulfed in a war which the defeated 'sirdar' [supreme commander] of Baghdad is fostering and will have nothing for the nation but death and destruction."

Pakistan

Official Confirms Contacts With Ex-Afghan King

BK0801164792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pakistan would support UN efforts for convening an assembly of Afghans to further advance the process of a political settlement in Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman, when asked to comment on the reported UN efforts for an intra-Afghan dialogue, said that Pakistan has been following a policy of encouraging and supporting a political settlement in Afghanistan within the framework of the five-point proposal of the UN secretary general. As part of the UN proposal an interim government is to be established in Afghanistan to replace the present Kabul regime.

Answering a question, the spokesman said that Army chief General Asif Nawaz during his stay in Rome met with Sardar 'Abdol Wali Khan, the son-in-law of former Afghan King Zaher Shah, at a reception hosted by the Pakistani ambassador. The spokesman added that Pakistan had in the past held contacts with King Zaher Shah and that this meeting was a link to continue this process of contacts. He said that Zaher Shah's representative had visited Pakistan in the past.

The spokesman stated categorically that it is for the Afghan people and their representatives to decide the nature and composition of the interim government. He said that the Pakistani Government is not supporting or canvassing for any particular individual as the leader of such an interim government.

State To Confiscate Drug Traffickers' Property

BK0201153892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] The president has promulgated the Narcotics Control Task Force Ordinance which, among other things, empowers the government to confiscate the property of narcotics traffickers and smugglers.

The Narcotics Control Task Force, which will be set up by the federal government, will investigate matters concerning the processing, production, and trafficking of narcotics and crimes related to the narcotics trade or other allied crimes. All law enforcement agencies, including the customs department, will send records of cases registered in connection with the narcotics trade to the Narcotics Control Task Force.